

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 307052
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:SKG
APPROVED BY S:THE SECRETARY
NEA:ALATHERTONJR
S/S: PSEBASTIAN

----- 069638 /41

O P 201716Z DEC 76 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 307052

NODIS
FOR CHARGE HOUGHTON AND AMBASSADORS TOON AND MURPHY ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LE IS SY

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH TUEINI: SOUTH LEBANON
SITUATION

1. THE SECRETARY MET WITH LEBANESE SPECIAL EMISSARY
GHASSAN TUEINI ON DECEMBER 16 AND 18. THESE DISCUSSIONS
COVERED THE LEBANESE POLITICAL SITUATION AND TUEINI'S BASIC
MISSION OF SEEKING U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR
REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS IN LEBANON, ON
WHICH WE WILL BRIEF CHARGE LANE BEFORE HIS RETURN TO BEIRUT.
FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE SECRETARY
AND TUEINI ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON, WHICH YOU
SHOULD TREAT AS STRICTLY FYI.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 307052

2. TUEINI SAID THAT, IN THE OPINION OF SARKIS, A SOLUTION
TO THE PROBLEM IN SOUTH LEBANON WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.
TUEINI INDICATED THAT HIS OWN VIEW WAS THAT A REINFORCED
PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH WAS NOT AS SIGNIFICANT
OR AS WORRISOME AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN AT A DIFFERENT TIME.
THE OUTCOME OF THE LEBANESE CONFLICT, COUPLED WITH PEACEFUL

STRATEGY NOW BEING SUPPORTED BY THE MODERATES IN THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT, HAS HAD ITS IMPACT. IN MANY RESPECTS, THE 1969 CAIRO ACCORD GOVERNING THE PALESTINIAN

PRESENCE IN LEBANON IS NOW MEANINGLESS.

3. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT WE HAD BEEN IN REGULAR TOUCH WITH THE ISRAELIS, THE SYRIANS AND PRESIDENT SARKIS ABOUT THE MATTER. BASED ON OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE PRESENT THINKING OF THE ISRAELIS, ME THOUGHT THAT THEY CONSIDERED A PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH PREFERABLE TO A SYRIAN PRESENCE. THE SECRETARY URGED THAT SARKIS MOVE WITH GREAT CARE AND PRUDENCE AND NOT FACE US WITH ANY SURPRISES, AND THAT HE SHARE HIS INTENTIONS WITH US. WE HAD, OF COURSE, COUNSELED PATIENCE AND RESTRAINT ON ALL PARTIES AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

4. THE SECRETARY TOLD TUEINI HE WAS CONFIDENT A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH LEBANON PROBLEM COULD BE DEVELOPED IN TIME THAT WOULD BE RECONCILABLE WITH LEBANESE DIGNITY AND NATIONAL INTEGRITY. THE U.S., HE SAID, FIRMLY SUPPORTED LEBANON'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, ITS SOVEREIGNTY, AND UNITY. WE WOULD OPPOSE ANY EFFORTS TO THE CONTRARY FROM WHATEVER DIRECTION AND FROM ANY OUTSIDE PARTY. SPECIFICALLY, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD THE U.S. SUPPORT ANY ANNEXATION EFFORT BY ANY PARTY AND THE U.S. WOULD OPPOSE ANY ALTERATION OF THE PRE-CRISIS LEBANESE FRONTIER.

5. IN MAKING THIS POINT, THE SECRETARY STRESSED THAT THE SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 307052

U.S. WOULD EMPLOY ALL NECESSARY DIPLOMATIC AND RELATED MEASURES TO OPPOSE SUCH MOVES BUT WOULD NOT RESORT TO MILITARY INTERVENTION. HE SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT SKILLFUL LEBANESE DIPLOMACY AND THE SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD ENABLE LEBANON TO PRESERVE ITS INTEGRITY. THERE ARE ALSO OTHER CONSTRAINTS, INCLUDING THE COMMON RECOGNITION THAT GENERAL WAR COULD BREAK OUT AS A RESULT OF THREATS TO THAT INTEGRITY, WITH ALL THAT THIS WOULD IMPLY.

6. TUEINI ASKED THE SECRETARY FOR HIS DEFINITION OF THE ISRAELI RED LINE. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN DEFINED EXPLICITLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SECRETARY SAID,

ISRAEL'S MENTION PUBLICLY OF A RED LINE AT PRESENT CONFIRMS THERE IS

ACUTE SENSITIVITY TO A SYRIAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTH

LEBANON. IT IS THEREFORE HARD FOR US TO PREDICT WHAT THE
ISRAELIS MAY DO IF THEIR SENSITIVITIES ARE IGNORED.
KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, ECONOMIC RECOVERY, PALESTINIANS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TROOP CONCENTRATION, POLITICAL SITUATION, CA T-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE307052
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:SKG
Enclosure: FOR CHARGE HOUGHTON AND AMBASSADORS TOON AND MURPHY ONLY
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840099-1193
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761227/aaaaaxms.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH TUEINI: SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, US, LE, IS, SY, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (TUEINI, GHASSAN)
To: BEIRUT DAMASCUS TEL AVIV
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006